DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. Such proposals have been received by Prasar Bharati.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Prasar Bharati have intimated that due weightage will be given to such programmes/serials along with programmes on other topics as per the programme requirement of the channel and quality of the programme.

(d) Proposals are initially screened by a Short-listing Committee consisting of Doordarshan officers and outside experts on the basis of programme requirements of Doordarshan. Thereafter, the short listed proposals are placed before the Screening-cum-Costing Committee consisting of Programme officers, Deputy Director General (Finance): Doordarshan and the representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs. The proposals are accepted based upon the following broad criteria:—

(i) Relevance of the story, theme or the subject to the requirements for the channel.

(ii) Treatment of the subject/story line.

(iii) Conformity to the Telecast Code.

(iv) Track record of the Production team.

Vulgar Programmes

5258. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of smut and vulgar programmes being beamed at Indian audiencs by foreign TV channels;

(b) whether it is a fact that children are being affected by such TV shows;

(c) whether any discussion has been held with all foreign and Indian TV channels to avoid such programmes; and

(d) if so, the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The programmes of foreign satellite channesl are uplined from outside the

country and therefore, do not fall under the ambit of Indian laws as of now, unless decoders are required for their reception in which case their programmes/ advertisements, when transmittd through a cable operator, are required to adhere to the programme/advertisement codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. With a view to bring the foreign satellite channels within the ambit of Indian laws including programme codes and standards, Government proposes to bring before Parliament a comprehensive legislation for inter-alia, regulating private broadcasting in the country.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pay Hike for Administrative Staff in Prasar Bharati

5259. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the status of administrative staff in the Prasar Bharati as on date:

(b) the reasons for not giving pay hike to administrative staff in Prasar Bharati as has been given to the Programme and Engineering staff;

(c) whether an Hon'ble court has rodered to give pay hike to Administrative staff in AIR and Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As on date there is no change in the status of administrative staff in the Prasar Bharati.

(b) Since the Administrative cadre and Programme/Engineering cadre are two different wings of Prasar Bharati and neither the duties and responsibilities nor the pay scales of these two wings are similar and cannot be compared to each other, the Government has not found it feasible to extend the benefit of upgraded pay scales to administrative staff of Prasar Bharati.